feasible to link the other locations in Gujarat with the Delhi, Secunderabad, Calcutta, and Chennai Systems in phases only after each System has been connected on the network.

Capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery

*156. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil Refineries whose capacity has been enhanced during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery situated in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) During the last three years, capacities of four oil refineries have been enhanced.

(b) Barauni Oil Refinery in Bihar has three Crude Distillation Units. The total capacity of the Barauni Oil Refinery of these three units taken together is 3.3 MMTPA.

Accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express

*157. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express on 14th September, 1997, near Champa;

(b) the number of people killed and injured and the compensation paid in each case;

(c) the loss caused to the railway property; and

(d) whether any enquiry was instituted and, if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) 8033 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express while on run towards Howrah on 14.09.1997, 7 bogies next to the Train Engine got derailed at the approach of the bridge near Champa Station on Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway, where some repair works were going on. 5 out 7 derailed coaches fell into the river bed resulting in death of 88 passengers and injury to 369 passengers, out of which 127 passengers sustained grievous injuries. The ex.gratia payment amounting to Rs. 25,000/-, 15,000/- and 2,000/- have been paid to the kins of the persons killed and to the persons, who have sustained grievous and simple injuries respectively. The payment of compensation will be decided after claims have been lodged with the concerned Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal by the claimants and affected parties. The accident has been investigated by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, whose final report is awaited. *Prima Facie,* discontinuity in rail during its repair and failure of railway staff are the reasons for the accident. The loss to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 69,83,000/- approximately.

Oil Reserve in Tripura

*158. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entrusted two U.S. firms to conduct survey to tap possible oil reserves in Tripura;

(b) if so, by when it would start surveying; and

(c) whether any survey is being conducted in other States of North-East specially Manipur regarding tapping of oil reserves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has awarded a block (AA-ON/3) in Central and Eastern Tripura to Okland Company and Rexwood Exploration, both of USA for exploration subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and UNOCAL International Corporation of USA for detailed Geoscientific studies only, for areas in Tripura outside the bid blocks.

(c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is continuing its exploration activities in Assam. It had to stop its activities in Nagaland due to certain problems. ONGC had drilled some wells in Meghalaya and Mizoram, but all went dry. No drillable prospect could be firmed up in Manipur, and the area is considered to have low prospectivity. However, part of Manipur covered under bid block (AA-ONJ/2) has been awarded to Tullow Oil Plc., Ireland for hydrocarbon exploration. Oil India Limited is also engaged in exploitation and exploration of crude oil in the State of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in North-Eastern Region.

National Literacy Mission

*159. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to spend Rs. 252 crore earmarked for the National Literacy Mission (NLM), during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to fix responsibility for the underspending?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During Eighth Plan, the allocation for various schemes of National Literacy Mission was Rs. 970.47 crores. The expenditure incurred under the schemes was Rs. 717.93 crores. The reasons for shortfall in expenditure were:

— The community and Voluntary agencies extended assistance in cash and kind towards implementation of the programme. More than 10 million volunteers from different sections of society e.g. students, social workers, ex-servicemen, retired govt. officials served as volunteer-teachers and trainers to make literate the adult illiterate in the age group 15—35. The voluntary agencies voluntarily assisted in mass mobilisation and generating of environment conducive to literacy.

— Financial controls were tightened to ensure optimum release and utilisation of funds. Releases were made in instalments strictly as per the requirements of the literacy programme subject to submission of utilisation certificates, where due. The monitoring of the programme was made more effective by enjoining upon the State Directorates of Adult Education to hold monitoring meetings every month.

— Also, there was an economy cut of Rs. 62.95 crores in the budget allocation of the National Literacy Mission during the year 1995-96.

(c) Does not arise.

News item captioned "Watchdog body on plastic lets off big fish"

*160. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report, appearing in the Indian Express, dated 12th September, 1997, captioned, "Watchdog body on plastic lets off big fish";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter; and

(c) the details regarding the action taken/proposed in this regard for environmental protection?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.